

RG-50.944.0033

September 6, 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia

Summary

Margita Horakova (born Lustig) could not recall details of her life before and during the Holocaust. Her hearing problem was also an impediment during the interview. She was born on April 22, 1923 in Tomášov (Fél), a village close to Šamorin (Somorja), Czechoslovakia. Her father owned a mill. She had a sister who was 15 months older. Her family kept the Jewish customs; her mother cooked kosher, and the family celebrated the Sabbath, but was not very devout. She went to a trade school in Bratislava. She had to leave school after the Hungarian occupation [November 1938]. In the 1940s, her father's mill was confiscated, but he kept working there. [On or around June 5, 1944] her family had to move to the ghetto in Rastice (Nagygyar). First, they worked on a nearby farm, then [on June 15] they were deported to Auschwitz. Her mother had a sister in Martin (Turócszentmárton), a town that belonged to Slovakia. She and her sister could have fled there, but they didn't want to leave their parents. She only remembered that it was summer when she and her family were deported. She and her sister were immediately separated from their parents, but they stayed only five days in Auschwitz. First, they were taken to Cracow, Poland. She remembered staying there for about seven weeks. Afterward they were transported to Augsburg, Germany. They worked in a factory assembling armaments [Messerschmitt factory in Augsburg-Haunstetten]. Her sister became ill and was transported to Dachau, to the camp hospital. She pretended to have appendicitis in order to follow her sister to Dachau. She told the interviewer that she was operated on for appendicitis, found her sister, and worked as a nurse in Dachau's *Revier* [a barrack for the sick]. U.S. troops liberated them. After spending a month in quarantine in Dachau, the Czechoslovak state sent a bus for the survivors, which took them to Plseň. From there they returned to their village. They found their father, but their mother had perished in Auschwitz. Later on, they heard that immediately upon arrival, their mother was sent to the gas chamber. The family home was occupied by the former Hungarian village clerk, but he freed up a room for them, and soon moved away from the village. Her sister contracted tuberculosis in Dachau and spent the next three years in rehabilitation in the Tatra mountains. Her father got the mill back, though it was later seized by the state. Soon after the war, she married. Her husband, a lawyer, was also Jewish and of Slovak nationality. He too had been deported, but she did not remember his story. They moved to Šamorin. She worked in an office. Once, a long time ago, she visited Auschwitz.